

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for extracting information from a network management object identifier, the method comprising:

receiving a network management object identifier comprising a first value in compressed form and remaining elements in uncompressed form;

extracting a said first value from said identifier;

decompressing said first value to form a first group of elements of said identifier;  
and

extracting said remaining elements from said identifier, said first group of elements and said remaining elements being associated with a single network management object.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein decompressing comprises:

forming elements of said first group of elements from decimal digits of said value.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein said network management identifier comprises an SNMP MIB object identifier.

Claims 8-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): The computer system of claim 17 wherein said code that causes decompression comprises

code that forms elements of said first group of elements from decimal digits of said value.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The computer system of claim 17 wherein said network management object identifier comprises an SNMP MIB object identifier.

Claims 15-16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer system comprising:

a processor that executes a program for extracting information from a network management object identifier, said program comprising:

code that receives a network management object identifier comprising a first value in compressed form and remaining elements in uncompressed form;

code that causes extraction of a said first value from said identifier;

code that causes decompression of said first value to form a first group of elements of said identifier;

code that causes extraction of said remaining elements from said identifier, said first group of elements and said remaining elements being associated with a single network management object; and

a computer-readable storage medium having said program stored thereon.

Claim 18 (currently amended): Apparatus for extracting information from a network management object identifier, the method comprising:

means for receiving a network management object identifier comprising a first value in compressed form and remaining elements in uncompressed form;

means for extracting a said first value from said identifier;

means for decompressing said first value to form a first group of elements of said identifier; and

means for extracting said remaining elements from said identifier, said first group of elements and said remaining elements being associated with a single network management object.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said means for decompressing comprises:

means for forming elements of said first group of elements from decimal digits of said value.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said network management identifier comprises an SNMP MIB object identifier.